(b) The State Legislations are examined from three angles *viz.* (a) repugnancy with Central Laws, (b) deviation from National or Central Policy and (c) legal and Constitutional validity. In this case, there are certain policy issues that need to be sorted out in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments as well as State Government. No time-frame can be fixed with respect to the finalisation of the consultation process.

Ill-Treatment of accused in Tihar Jail

3055. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accused were treated as convicts and put to great hardships by the various categories of jail staff in the Tihar Jail; and

(b) whether Government envisaged change in the attitude of the staff through amendments in the Jail Manual?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. The undertrial prisoners and convicts are treated in all matters strictly as per provisions of Delhi Prisons Act, 2000 and Jail Manual.

(b) The Jail staff is regularly sensitized about their statutory and administrative duties related to lodging of undertrial and convicts as per provisions of Delhi Prisons Act, 2000 and Jail Manual. Grievance Redressal mechanism, provided under Delhi Prisons Act/Jail Manual takes care of any violation of prescribed rules on the part of the Jail staff.

Suspension of Smart Cards issued by M/s Smart Chip Ltd.

3056. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Smart Cards being issued by Delhi based company M/s. Smart Chip Ltd. is being encrypted by Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals who have crossed over to Gujarat and West Bengal;

(b) whether anti-national elements can access and copy database of the Indian Army and other sensitive establishments; and

(c) whether Government will forthwith suspend the issue of Smart Cards, which have proved highly dangerous for the security of the country and if not, reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per information given by Ministry of Defence, the smart card is issued to the customers of Canteen Stores Department (CSD) to purchase CSD items. Implementation of Army Headquarters' Quarter Master General's Branch software on Canteen Inventory Management System (CIMS) interfaced with smart card has been awarded to M/s. Smart Chip Limited. The question of data being encrypted by Pakistani/Bangladesi nationals is ruled out. Moreover, all the employees of M/s. Smart Chip who are working on this project are required to obtain security clearance from respective formations before taking up the work.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Presently there is no such proposal to surpend the issue of smart card.

Policy for travelling in Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus

3057. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani Minister for Information Sheikh Rasheed was denied permission to visit Srinagar;

(b) whether earlier leaders of National Conference and other politicians were denied the permission to board the Muzaffarabad bus;

(c) whether there is a policy as to who can travel on this bus; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.